

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method of manufacturing a tubular film includes the steps of: winding a thermoplastic sheet film on a columnar member with at least two turns so that leading and trailing ends of the film are placed approximately on one normal line of an outer surface of the columnar member without overlapping each other; fitting a tubular molding member on the wound film; and connecting the leading and trailing ends of the film by heating at least the film, thereby forming the sheet film into the tubular film. The resulting tubular film has a high film thickness uniformity and suitable for a fixing film of an image forming apparatus.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

PLEASE CANCEL CLAIMS 1 THROUGH 68 WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OR DISCLAIMER OF THE SUBJECT MATTER RECITED THEREIN.

PLEASE ADD CLAIM 69 TO READ AS FOLLOWS.

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--69. (New) A method for making a tubular film comprising the steps of:
winding a thermoplastic sheet film on a columnar member with at least two turns so that leading and trailing ends of said film are placed approximately on one normal line of an outer surface of said columnar member without overlapping each other;
fitting a tubular molding member on said wound film; and
connecting the leading and trailing ends of said film by heating at least said
film, thereby forming said sheet film into the tubular film.--